

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 3301 and 3302; E.O. 10577, 3 CFR 1954—1958 Comp., P.218.

Office of Personnel Management.

**Lorraine A. Green,**

*Deputy Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Environmental Impact Statement: Morgan, Cass, Schuyler, and McDonough Counties, Illinois

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway  
Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a project in Morgan, Cass, Schuyler, and McDonough Counties, Illinois. The proposed project will extend from the northwestern terminus of the proposed Jacksonville Bypass, in Morgan County to US Route 136, in McDonough County. The proposed project will be designated Federal Air Primary Route 310 (FAP Route 310).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Walter C. Waidelich, Jr., Design Operations Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division, 3520 Executive Park Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703, Telephone: (217) 492-4622.

Mr. James L. Easterly, district Engineer, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), 126 East Ash Street, Springfield, Illinois 62704, Telephone: (217) 782-7301.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FHWA, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on a proposal to improve US Route 67 with Morgan, Cass, Schuyler, and McDonough Counties. The proposed action involves upgrading approximately 88.5 km (55 miles) of US Route 67 to a four lane, partial access-controlled facility, utilizing both the existing alignment and new alignment, depending on the determination of the best combination to meet project goals. The proposed project will extend from the proposed Jacksonville Bypass in Morgan County on the south to US Route 136 near Macomb in McDonough County on the north.

The need of improving US Route 67 is based on improving access to existing/potential development in the region, transportation demands, safety

considerations, and system continuity for the route. Future economic development in the area is tied to improving transportation networks to major urban areas. Upgrading US Route 67 from Jacksonville to Macomb would provide the opportunity for growth. The proposed action would not only connect major urban areas of St. Louis and the Quad Cities, but would also tie together the population centers within the immediate project area.

Alternatives under consideration include no action and a new four lane, partial access-controlled expressway facility. Several alignment alternatives will be evaluated for the proposed project, including bypasses of Beardstown, Rushville, and Industry. Additionally, studies will evaluate the use of the existing US Route 67 alignment south of Beardstown versus alternative alignments in that area. The proposed expressway would be grade separated at all active railroad tracks and interchanges would be constructed at most marked routes along the way. A new Illinois River crossing would also be required in the Beardstown vicinity.

The scoping process for this project will include meetings, review sessions as appropriate, and coordination with appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies. An initial scoping meeting to discuss the project's impacts and determine the extent of additional agency involvement will be held on June 22, 1995 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Elks Club in Beardstown (205 East 2nd Street). Initial areas of environmental concern identified as being potentially impacted by project alternatives include conversion of agricultural land, cultural resources, wetlands, threatened and endangered species (Federal and State), floodplains, and water quality. Further details and a scoping information packet may be obtained from one of the contact persons listed above.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to the proposed project are addressed and all significant issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or suggestions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA or IDOT contact persons at the addresses provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: June 12, 1995.

**Walter C. Waidelich, Jr.,**

*Design Operations Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division, Springfield, Illinois.*

[FR Doc. 95-15280 Filed 6-21-95; 8:45 am]

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## UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

### International Educational and Cultural Activities Discretionary Grant Program

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Citizen Exchanges (E/P) of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award program. Public or private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to develop projects that link their international exchange interests with counterpart institutions/groups in ways supportive of the aims of the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended, Public Law 87-256, also known as the Fulbright Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries . . . ; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations . . . and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Application Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the Office of Citizen Exchanges or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, the Office of Citizen Exchanges may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until after the Bureau program and project review process has been completed.

**ANNOUNCEMENT NAME AND NUMBER:** All communications concerning this announcement should refer to the Annual Discretionary Grant Program. The announcement number is E/P-96-

1. Please refer to title and number in all correspondence or telephone calls of USIA.

**DATES:** Deadline for Proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Friday, October 6, 1995. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked on October 6, 1995, but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each grant applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline. This action is effective from the publication date of this notice through October 6, 1995, for projects where activities will begin between January 1, 1996 and December 31, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Interested organizations/institutions must contact the Office of Citizens Exchanges, E/PL, Room 216, United States Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, (202) 619-5326, to request detailed application packets which include award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget. Please direct inquiries and correspondence to USIA Program Officer Laverne Johnson, E-Mail {LJohnson@USIA.GOV}

**ADDRESSES:** Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Application Package and send only complete applications to: U.S. Information Agency, REF: E/P-96-1 Annual Discretionary Grant Competition, Grants Management Division (E/XE), 301-4th Street SW., Room 336, Washington, D.C. 20547.

Applicants must also submit to E/XE the "Executive Summary," "Proposal Narrative," and "Budget" sections of each proposal on a 3.5" diskette, formatted for DOS. This material must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) format with a maximum line length of 65 characters. USIA will transmit these files electronically to USIS posts overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get posts' comments for the Agency's grants review process.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including but not limited to race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and

physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle.

#### Overview

The office of Citizens Exchanges works with U.S. private sector, non-profit organizations on cooperative international group projects that introduce American and foreign participants to each others' social, economic, and political structures, and international interests. The Office supports international projects in the United States or overseas involving leaders or potential leaders in the following fields and professions: urban planners, jurists, specialized journalists (specialists in economics, business, political analysis, international affairs), business professionals, NGO leaders, environmental specialists, parliamentarians, educators, economists, and other government officials.

#### Guidelines

Applicants should carefully note the following restrictions/recommendations for proposals in specific geographical areas:

*The Newly Independent States:* USIA and other agencies of the U.S. government have numerous programs in the countries of the NIS (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan). As such, proposals involving this region will not be accepted under this competition.

*Western Europe and Canada (WEU):* Priority themes and target countries/regions follow:—Immigration and Multiculturalism: Italy, France, Germany.—Conflict Resolution: Greece/Turkey/Cyprus; Northern Ireland.—Environmental Cooperation and Sustainable Development: Nordic/Baltic region; Western Canada;—School-to-work Transition/Vocational Education: Germany, Scandinavia, Spain.

*East Asia and the Pacific (EA):* Priority consideration will be given to the following:

(1) *Asean and Other Southeast Asian Countries:* Proposals for a journalism project focusing on investigative reporting, media ethics and the relationship between the media, government and the people. Proposals should be designed for junior to mid-level working journalists, in the print or electronic media, in ASEAN member countries and/or other Southeast Asian countries. Proposals that include two-way exchanges are preferred. It is projected that this subregional project will be conducted in English and

participants must be fluent in English. As the overseas portion of the exchange, a seminar/workshop on the methods and ethics of investigative reporting is suggested. Potential site would be Thailand.

(2) *China:* Rule of law. An exchange of young Chinese legal professionals including practicing lawyers, academics and government officials on issues in civil law focusing on how the rights of ordinary citizens in such fields as consumer protection, environmental protection, and intellectual property rights are protected by a strong legal code which permits civil suits against violators by private individuals or by individuals acting in a private capacity. Participants should observe how the threat of liability suits in the U.S. eases the burden on the state for the enforcement of public policy and provides a check on abuses of the rights of individuals.

(3) *China:* Role of individuals in environmental protection. Exchanges that provide Chinese mid-level central governments and municipal and provincial officials with responsibility for environmental protection, as well as academics and staff in non-governmental environmental organizations, an opportunity to observe how citizens' action groups in the U.S. represent public interest in environmental issues, affect legislation and influence public policy. Participants should observe how citizen organizations in the U.S. can affect the outcome of specific local projects with the potential for environmental degradation. Proposals should reflect previous experience in working with Chinese organizations in the environmental field.

(4) *Korea:* Korean Local Autonomy Project. Proposals to conduct a project for Korean provincial and municipal administrators to observe how U.S. state and local governments function and how the federal, state and local governments interact. Participants should be elected provincial and municipal government officials or high-level appointees to provincial and municipal government positions or a combination of the two. The program should emphasize the degree of autonomy enjoyed by state and local governments within the U.S. federal system.

*American Republics (AR):* Priority will be given to projects involving Haiti (focusing on democracy building or adult/community-based education), Brazil (focusing on ethics in government or cultural diversity), and the Andean region (focusing on judicial reform). Proposals for projects in the Andean

region should include activities in at least two Andean countries, one of which must be Colombia or Bolivia. (The Andean Region consists of the following countries: Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.)

**Africa (AF):** Preference will be accorded to proposals which include three or four countries in one subregion of Africa (West, East, or Southern Africa), and priority will be given to projects addressing rule of law, print or electronic media development, and conflict resolution. Other themes may be proposed, but the three listed above will receive preference.

**North Africa, Near East and South Asia (NEA):** Priority will be given to projects involving Pakistan/India (focusing on conflict resolution and economic reform) and the Middle East Peace Process States (focusing on public administration and natural resource management). The Office of Citizen Exchanges strongly encourages the coordination of activities with respected universities, professional associations, and major cultural institutions in the U.S. and abroad, but particularly in the U.S. Projects should be intellectual and cultural, not technical. Vocational training (an occupation other than one requiring a baccalaureate or higher academic degree; i.e., clerical work, auto maintenance, etc., and other occupations requiring less than two years of higher education) and technical training (special and practical knowledge of a mechanical or a scientific subject which enhances mechanical, narrowly scientific, or semi-skilled capabilities) are ineligible for support. In addition, scholarship programs are ineligible for support.

The Office does not support proposals limited to conferences or seminars (i.e., one- to fourteen-day programs with plenary sessions, main speakers, panels, and a passive audience). It will support conferences only insofar as they are part of a larger project in duration and scope which is receiving USIA funding from this competition. USIA-supported projects may include internships; study tours; short-term, non-technical training; and extended, intensive workshops taking place in the United States or overseas. The themes addressed in exchange programs must be of long-term importance rather than focused exclusively on current events or short-term issues. In every case, a substantial rationale must be presented as part of the proposal, one that clearly indicates the distinctive and important contribution of the overall project, including, where applicable, the expected yield of any associated

conference. No funding is available exclusively to send U.S. citizens to conferences or conference-type seminars overseas; nor is funding available for bringing foreign nationals to conferences or to routine professional association meetings in the United States. Projects that duplicate what is routinely carried out by private sector and/or public sector operations will not be considered. The Office of Citizen Exchanges strongly recommends that applicants consult with host country USIS posts *prior* to submitting proposals.

#### **Selection of Participants:**

All grant proposals should clearly describe the type of persons who will participate in the program as well as the process by which participants will be selected. It is recommended that programs in support of U.S. internships include letters tentatively committing host institutions to support the internships. In the selection of foreign participants, USIA and USIS posts abroad retain the right to nominate all participants and to accept or deny participants recommended by grantee institutions. However, grantee institutions are often asked by USIA to suggest names of potential participants. The grantee institution will also provide the names of American participants and brief (two pages) biographical data on each American participant to the Office of Citizen Exchanges for information purposes. Priority will be given to foreign participants who have not previously traveled to the United States.

#### **Additional Guidance:**

The Office of Citizen Exchanges offers the following additional guidance to prospective applicants:

1. The Office of Citizen Exchanges encourages project proposals involving more than one country. Pertinent rationale which links countries in multi-country projects should be included in the submission. Single-country projects that are clearly defined and possess the potential for creating and strengthening continuing linkages between foreign and U.S. institutions are also welcome.
2. Proposals for bilateral programs are subject to review and comment by the USIS post in the relevant country, and pre-selected participants will also be subject to USIS post review.
3. Bilateral programs should clearly identify the counterpart organization and provide evidence of the organization's participation.
4. The office of Citizen Exchanges will consider proposals for activities which take place exclusively in other countries when USIS posts are consulted in the

design of the proposed program and in the choice of the most suitable venues for such programs.

5. Office of Citizen Exchanges grants are not given to support projects whose focus is limited to technical or vocational subjects, or for research projects, for publications funding, for student and/or teacher/faculty exchanges, for sports and/or sports related programs. Nor does this office provide scholarships or support for long-term (a semester or more) academic studies. Competitions sponsored by other Bureau offices are also announced in the **Federal Register**.

For projects that would begin after December 31, 1996, competition details will be announced in the **Federal Register** on or about June 1, 1996. Inquiries concerning technical requirements are welcome prior to submission of applications.

#### **Funding**

Although no set funding limit exists, proposals for less than \$135,000 will receive preference. Organizations with less than four years of successful experience in managing international exchange programs are limited to \$60,000. Applicants are invited to provide both an all-inclusive budget as well as separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity in order to facilitate USIA decisions on funding. While an all-inclusive budget must be provided with each proposal, separate component budgets are optional. Competition for USIA funding support is keen.

The selection of grantee institutions will depend on program substance, cross-cultural sensitivity, and ability to carry out the program successfully. Since USIA grant assistance constitutes only a portion of total project funding, proposals should list and provide evidence of other anticipated sources of financial and in-kind support. Proposals with substantial private sector support from foundations, corporations, other institutions, *et al.* will be deemed highly competitive. The Recipient must provide a minimum of 33 percent cost sharing of the total project cost.

#### **Cost Sharing**

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs encourages cost-sharing, which may be in the form of allowable direct or indirect costs. The recipient of an assistance award must maintain written records to support all allowable costs which are claimed as being its contribution to cost participation, as well as costs to be paid by the Federal Government. Such records are subject to audit.

The basis for determining the value of cash and in-kind contributions must be in accordance with OMB Circular A-110, Subpart C(23) "Cost-sharing or Matching," and should be described in the proposal. Cost sharing may be in the form of allowable direct or indirect costs. The Recipient must maintain written records to support all allowable costs which are claimed as being its contribution to cost participation, as well as costs to be paid by the Federal Government. Such records are subject to audit. In the event the Recipient does not provide a minimum of 33 percent cost sharing, the Agency's contribution will be reduced in proportion to the Recipient's contribution. The Recipient's proposal shall include the cost of an audit that: (1) Complies with the requirements of OMB Circular No. A-133, Audits of Institutions of Higher Education and Other Nonprofit Institutions; (2) complies with the requirements of American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Statement of Position (SOP) No. 92-9; and (3) complies with AICPA Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards AU Section 551, "Reporting on Information Accompanying the Basic Financial Statements in Auditor-Submitted Documents," where applicable. When USIA is the largest direct source of Federal financial assistance—i.e. the cognizant Federal Agency—and indirect costs are charged to Federal grants, a supplemental schedule of indirect cost computation is required.

The audit costs shall be identified separately for: (1) Audit of the basic financial statements, and (2) supplemental reports and schedules required by A-133.

USIA's Office of Inspector General has provided supplemental guidance for conducting A-133 audits and recovery of related audit costs in a separate "Dear Colleague" letter dated January 24, 1995.

The following project costs are eligible for consideration for funding:

1. International and domestic air fares; visas; transit costs; ground transportation costs.

2. Per Diem. For the U.S. program, organizations have the option of using a flat \$140/day for program participants or the published U.S. Federal per diem rates for individual American cities. For activities outside the U.S., the published Federal per diem rates must be used.

**Note:** U.S. escorting staff must use the published Federal per diem rates, not the flat rate.

3. Interpreters: If needed, interpreters for the U.S. program are provided by the

U.S. State Department Language Services Division. Typically, a pair of simultaneous interpreters is provided for every four visitors who need interpretation. USIA grants do not pay for foreign interpreters to accompany delegations from their home country. Grant proposal budgets should contain a flat \$140/day per diem for each Department of State interpreter, as well as home-program-home air transportation of \$400 per interpreter plus any U.S. travel expenses during the program. Salary expenses are covered centrally and should not be part of an applicant's proposed budget.

4. Book and cultural allowance: Participants are entitled to and escorts are reimbursed a one-time cultural allowance of \$150 per person, plus a participant book allowance of \$50. U.S. staff do not get these benefits.

5. Consultants. May be used to provide specialized expertise or to make presentations. Daily honoraria generally do not exceed \$250 per day. Subcontracting organizations may also be used, in which case the written agreement between the prospective grantee and subcontractor should be included in the proposal.

6. Room rental, which generally should not exceed \$250 per day.

7. Materials development. Proposals may contain costs to purchase, develop, and translate materials for participants.

8. One working meal per project. Per capita costs may not exceed \$5-8 for a lunch and \$14-20 for a dinner, excluding room rental. The number of invited guests may not exceed participants by more than a factor of two-to-one.

9. A return travel allowance of \$70 for each participant which is to be used for incidental expenditures incurred during international travel.

10. All USIA-funded delegates will be covered under the terms of a USIA-sponsored health insurance policy. The premium is paid by USIA directly to the insurance company.

11. Other costs necessary for the effective administration of the program, including salaries for grant organization employees, benefits, and other direct and indirect costs per detailed instructions in the application package.

**Note:** The 20 percent limitation of "administrative costs" included in previous announcements does not apply to this RFP.

Please refer to the Application Package for complete budget guidelines.

#### Review Process

USIA will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be

deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines established herein and in the Application Packet. Eligible proposals will be forwarded to panels of USIA officers for advisory review. All eligible proposals will also be reviewed by the budget and contract offices, as well as the USIA geographic regional office and the USIS post overseas, where appropriate. Proposals may also be reviewed by the USIA's Office of General Counsel or by other Agency elements. Funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for grant award resides with USIA's contracting officer.

#### Review Criteria

USIA will consider proposals based on their conformance with the objectives and considerations already stated in this RFP, as well as the following criteria:

1. *Quality of Program Idea:* Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to the Agency mission.

2. *Program Planning:* Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings and logistical capacity. Agenda and plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above.

3. *Ability to Achieve Program Objectives:* Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the program objectives and plan.

4. *Multiplier Effect:* Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information and establishment of long-term institutional and individual linkages.

5. *Value of U.S.-Partner Country Relations:* Proposed projects should receive positive assessments by USIA's geographic area desk and overseas officers of program need, potential impact, and significance in the partner country(ies).

6. *Institutional Capacity:* Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program's or project's goal.

7. *Institution Reputation/Ability:* Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and

the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

8. *Follow-on Activities*: Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without USIA support) which ensures that USIA-supported programs are not isolated events.

9. *Evaluation Plan*: Proposals should provide a plan for a thorough and objective evaluation of the program/project by the grantee institution.

10. *Cost-Effectiveness*: The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate.

11. *Cost-Sharing*: Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

12. *Support of Diversity*: Proposals should demonstrate the recipients' commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity throughout the program. This can be accomplished through documentation (such as a written statement or account) summarizing past and/or on-going activities and efforts that further the principle of diversity within both their organization and their activities.

#### Notice

The need of the program may require the award to be reduced, revised, or increased. The terms and conditions published in the RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by USIA that contradicts published language will not be binding.

Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. Final awards cannot be made until funds have been fully appropriated by the Congress, allocated, and committed through internal USIA procedures.

#### Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or about December 8, 1995. Awarded grants will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: June 14, 1995.

**Dell Pendergrast,**

*Deputy Associate Director, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.*

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